

PRUITT MEDICAL LABORATORIES

P. O. BOX 160

LUFKIN, TEXAS 75901

301 NORTH BYNUM
(713) 634-4431

AUTOPSY REPORT

JACK PRUITT, M. D.
RAUL M. GUTIERREZ, M. D.

(Series No. 20) (NOT IN 140 SERIES)

Name: Body No. 1, identified as William Ray Lawrence
Date of Autopsy: August 10, 1973, 12:30 p.m.
Place of Autopsy: Wyman Roberts Funeral Home, San Augustine, Texas
Authority: San Augustine County, Texas Justice of the Peace C. A. Renfroe #1
Autopsy Prosector: Jack Pruitt, M. D.

CIRCUMSTANCES: Body found buried near Broaddus, Texas, on the afternoon of Thursday August 9, 1973.

GROSS EXAMINATION: The unclothed body is fully wrapped in a thick transparent plastic sheet and tied with several lengths of thick cord resembling venetian blind cord about 1/8 inch in diameter. The body is that of a slender white adolescent male 68 inches in length, the weight not estimated. The scalp hair is light brown and straight, about shoulder length, 12 - 15 inches. The wrists are secured behind the body with fabric adhesive tape. The legs are similarly taped together just above the ankles. A noose of thick cord like that described around the original plastic wrapping is secured around the neck, typical of a "hangman's noose", with a loose end 12 inches long extending down the back. The tissues of the neck are compressed, and indicate that this was applied tightly before death.

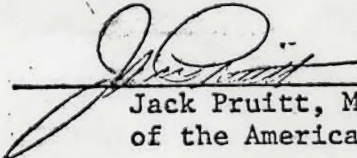
The skin is essentially intact over the entire body, although very slippery and having advanced postmortem decomposition, and there is no evidence of any penetrating wound. The outer skin surfaces over the fingers and toes have sloughed away, and make fingerprint identification impossible, according to two Texas Department of Public Safety Investigators present at the scene. The facial features can be recognized, although the nose has advanced decomposition, the bones intact, no recognizable evidence of trauma. Two teeth are out of their sockets, numbers 1 and 8 as indicated on the accompanying dental chart, postmortem in character, apparently all 32 teeth having erupted and having no evidence of decay or filling (see dental chart for description). The penis, scrotum and anus are intact, without evidence of mutilation, the pubic hair intact and recognizable.

The heart, lungs, and abdominal organs are shrunken and pasty, virtually unrecognizable, but without evidence of severe antemortem trauma.

According to information supplied by the father and the dentist, as well as a photograph published in the Houston Post, this body was identified as that of William Ray Lawrence, 15-year-old white boy. The condition of the body is consistent with a postmortem interval of approximately one month.

MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION: Microscopic examination of the solid organs is of no value because of the severe postmortem decomposition of the tissues.

PATHOLOGIC DIAGNOSIS AND CAUSE OF DEATH: Death by strangulation, postmortem interval of about one month.


Jack Pruitt, M. D., Diplomate
of the American Board of Pathology

Original to Judge Renfroe
Xerox copy to Sheriff Hoyt
Xerox copy retained for files

Case #1 San Augustine 8-10-73

N-73-54

(Ident. as William Ray Lawrence)

NAME																DATE																AGE																															

.2

FORM 1429 COLWELL CO., CHAMPAIGN, ILL.

all teeth apparently in, but #1 out post-mortem, found in pharynx, no trauma; #8 out post-mortem, not found, no trauma - socket smooth, resembles #9. #9 (left upper medial incisor) larger & more prominent than others, small "chip" mesial tip, which if matched with absent #8 would form a notch. No recognized cavities, no fillings.

Other characteristics for identification:

1. Height 5'8", slender, weight not estimated.
2. Long straight brown hair, about shoulder length, est. 12-15 inches in longest portion.
3. Eyes apparently blue, but masked post mortem decomposition.
4. Features resemble photo Harston Post Sun. 8-12-73

N-73-54

Return X-ray

W.L. George, D.D.S.
1920 Ashland
Houston, Tex 77008

NAME <u>Lawrence, Billy</u>										DATE <u>6-30-71</u>										AGE <u>13</u>											
ADDRESS <u>310 W. 31st</u>										PHONE <u>8629947</u>																					
CHARGE TO										ADDRESS																					
DATE		TOOTH		SERVICE RENDERED										CHARGE		PAID		BALANCE													
6-30-71				<u>Alaper #9, 10 - 1x-ray - R</u> <u>Arch + Refer to Dr. Paterson Kunk</u>										N/C																	

FORM 1420 COLWELL CO., CHAMPAIGN, ILL.

I referred this patient over to Dr. B.T. Kunk. I doubt if he ever went to his office, because I never received any follow-up X-rays from his office concerning endodontic treatment.

W.L. George, D.D.S.

Received by _____

DATE _____

WILLIAM RAY LAWRENCE

- (1) NO X-RAY EQUIPMENT

EXTERNAL XAM -

- (1) SKIN SLIPPAGE
- (2) FEATURES OF BODY WELL PRESERVED
- (3) PLASTIC SHEET AROUND BODY
- (4) CORD AROUND NECK - WITH SLIP KNOT - LIKE HANGMAN'S NOOSE
IT WAS VERY TIGHT - KNOT ON BACK 1' OF CORD HUNG DOWN
- (5) DEEP GROOVE IN NECK UNDER CORD
- (6) BLOOD (HEMORRHAGE) IN TISSUES UNDER CORD
- (7) APPEARED STRANGULATION BEFORE DEATH CHOKING WITH CORD WILL
CAUSE HEMORRHAGE
- (8) ADHESIVE TAPE AROUND WRISTS, BEHIND
- (9) ADHESIVE TAPE AROUND ANKLES
- (10) FACE RECOGNIZABLE THOUGH NOSE DECOMPOSED
- (11) TEETH PRESENT EXCEPT TWO (2) - RIGHT #1 OR # 8
1ST UPPER MOLAR & BACK WISDOM FOUND IN MOUTH - FELL OUT OF
SOCKET AFTER DEATH
SEE PG. 0763

INTERNAL XAM -

- (1) 5'8" TALL
- (2) VISUAL EXAM (DIDN'T WEIGH) 125 - 140 LBS.
- (3) 14-16 YR. OLD W/M
- (4) LIGHT TAN OR LIGHT BROWN HAIR 12" - 15" LONG
- (5) SHOW PHOTO OF LAWRENCE & DR. WILL I.D.
- (6) COMPARED DR. JOE'S X-RAYS OF TEETH TO PHOTO OF TEETH
- (7) HE HAD BEEN SUPPLIED A PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF BILLY -
MATCHED & HAD ALL TEETH
- (8) NO CAVITIES OR FILLINGS-TWO FRONT TEETH WERE MODERATELY
PROMINENT, LARGER THAN OTHERS; NOTCHING EFFECT OF THESE 2
TEETH - IN DESCRIPTION & BODY

- (9) BLUE EYES - DESCRIPTION & BODY
- (10) NO FILLINGS IN TEETH OF BODY EXAMINED & NO CAVITIES
- (11) DESCRIPTION HE HAD BEEN GIVEN - INCLUDED PROMINENT FRONT TEETH & THIS MATCHED
- (12) PHOTO OF BILLY - SAME & SHOWS NOTCHING IN TEETH
- (13) NOTCHING SHOWS IN X-RAY

WILLIAM RAY LAWRENCE

SAN AUGUSTINE

- (1) AUTOPSY NOT DONE BY DR. JOE. BECAUSE HE NEVER RECEIVED BODY
- (2) KNOWN DENTAL X-RAY OF LAWRENCE BY DR. W. L. GEORGE
- (3) GOT PHOTOGRAPHS OF BODY
- (4) COMPARED X-RAY OF TEETH TO PHOTO OF DENTAL WORK
- (5) THIS COMPARISON MATCHES

PRIOR EXHIBIT NOS.

ITEM

#81
#83
#25
#84

DR. J.
DR. FRUIT

- X-RAYS OF TEETH BY DR. GEORGE
/ PHOTO OF BILLY LAWRENCE (DEAD)
/ POLAROID PHOTO OF BILLY LAWRENCE
/ NEWS PHOTO OF BILLY LAWRENCE

(14) BASED ON VISUAL XAM - HEIGHT, COLOR EYES, COLOR & LENGTH
OF HAIR, WEIGHT & PHOTOS - HIS OPINION - BILLY LAWRENCE

(15) CAUSE OF DEATH - STRANGUIATION

(16) DID AUTOPSY - AUGUST 10, 1973 BODY DEAD APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH

INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT

Autopsy

Investigator: Gregory

View

Case No. DID NOT COME TO 7286

Decedent: WILLIAM RAY LAWRENCE Race W Sex M Age 15

Address: 310 West 31st St., Houston

Death: FOUND 8-9-73 Approx. Time 8:00PM A.M.
P.M.

Place of Death: 2½ miles South of Broadus, Texas off FM-3185, St. Augustine County

Place of Inquest:

Date and Time of Inquest: A.M.
P.M.

Location, Position, and Surroundings of Body: SEE BELOW

Clothing: NAKED- Face up in grave

Information: St. Augustine County Dep. Sheriff RICHARD DAVIS furnished the following info. on 8-11-73 at 7286.

St. Augustine County Sheriff JOHN HOYT, Box 61, St. Augustine, Texas, was directed to a gravesite near the above location by WAYNE HENLEY (suspect in the above case) on 8-9-73 about 8:00PM. HENLEY identified the gravesite as being at a point where 4 sticks were crossed on the ground. Beneath the crossed sticks was a thin layer of earth beneath which there was a plyboard. Beneath the plyboard was a hole in the ground into which had been placed a substance similar to lime, along with a plastic covering, securely taped, containing the body of the decedent. The decedent's body had been rolled in the plastic covering, but none of the lime substance was within the plastic covering. A cord tied in a "hangman's noose" was around the neck of the decedent. His ankles were bound together with silver colored ~~xxxx~~ air conditioning tape. His wrists were taped behind his back with similar tape. The grave was about 18"-19" in depth and there were two cinderblocks in the grave.

Photos were taken at the scene by D.P.S., Austin.

An autopsy was performed at the Wyman Roberts FH, St. Augustine, Texas on 8-10-73 by Dr. JACK PRUITT of Lufkin, Texas. DX: STRANGULATION.

DEP. DAVIS SAID THAT HENLEY MADE THE STATEMENT THAT ONE OF THE "UNKNOWN #20, #21 OR #22 COULD BE A BOY NAMED "GARCIA."

The cord found around the decedent's ~~xxxx~~ neck was tagged at 7286 under Property: NONE) the name WILLIAM RAY LAWRENCE.

Transferred to Morgue by: SUBSEQUENT TO THE AUTOPSY IN ST. AUGUSTINE THE BODY OF THE DECEDENT WAS RELEASED BY ST. AUGUSTINE COUNTY AUTHORITIES TO FOREST PARK FH.
Funeral Home Conducting Service: Forest Park FH

HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT MISSING PERSON REPORT

RECEIVED BY Head		WRITE OUTSIDE IF 50		OFFENSE NO.	
DATE AND TIME RECEIVED 8-9-73 10:15 AM		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADULT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JUVENILE		M.P.B. NO.	
DATE & TIME MISSING PERSON LEFT HOME 1st Week in June		RESIDENCE ADDRESS 310 W. 31st		J.D. NO.	
MISSING PERSON'S NAME LAWRENCE, WILLIAM RAY		LOCATION LAST SEEN		FO X RE.	
ALIAS OR MAIDEN NAME		NICKNAME		DATE, TIME LAST SEEN	
DESCRIPTION OF MISSING PERSON		SEX M	DESCENT W	AGE 15	HEIGHT 5'7
		WEIGHT 135 lbs	HAIR Brown	EYES Blue	BUILD Complex.
IDENTIFYING MARKS AND CHARACTERISTICS					
CLOTHING WORN (NAME OF GARMENT - COLOR - DESCRIPTION) (INCLUDE DESCRIPTION OF JEWELRY AND LUGGAGE CARRIED) UNK.					
PLACE - DATE - TIME PERSON LOCATED				LOCATED BY (PERSON OR AGENCY)	
BIRTH PLACE Houston		BIRTH DATE 3-14-58		MARITAL STATUS (MARRIED - SINGLE - DIVORCED) Single	
OCCUPATION		RELIGION		MENTAL CONDITION (GOOD - POOR - ETC.) Good	
POSSIBLE CAUSE OF ABSENCE		PROBABLE DESTINATION		SCHOOL (NAME & LOCATION) GRADE	
PERSONAL HABITS (HVV. DRINKER, GAMBLER)		REPORTED MISSING BEFORE DATE <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		FORMER ADDRESS OF MISSING PERSON	
				WHERE LOCATED ON PRIOR OCCASION	
VEHICLE DRIVEN (YEAR - MAKE - BODY TYPE - COLOR(S) - LICENSE NUMBER - IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS)					
PERSON LAST SEEING MISSING PERSON		RESIDENCE ADDRESS		PHONE	
PERSON REPORTING ABSENCE TO POLICE Shirley A. Lane		RESIDENCE ADDRESS 818 Byron		PHONE 862-6746	
PARENTS OR GUARDIANS (JUVENILE ONLY)		RESIDENCE ADDRESS		PHONE	
1. Horace Lawrence		310 W. 31st		862-9947	
RELATIVES AND FRIENDS		RESIDENCE ADDRESS		PHONE	
1.					
2.					
3.					
MESSAGE NO.		DATE & TIME		MESSAGE CANG. BY	

Shirley A. Lane, Aunt states that the Father of William R. Lawrence, was a member of the Houston Police Department, and was killed in the line of duty on 8-9-73. She stated that she was the last person to see him alive, and that he was in good health at the time.

Billy Ray Lawrence

wml5

dis. 6-4-73

d.o.b. 3-11-58 5'11½" 145-150 lb.

Horace J. Lawrence - 862-9947 this is a non-listed number. Mr. Lawrence
wants no-one to have it.

dent. - Dr. William George -

no broken bones.

*Came from Lake Rayburn
gone to Forest Park*